

B 2881 ZZW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Kingston et al.  
Assignee: Metara, Inc.  
Title: Method And Apparatus For Automated In-Process, Isotope Dilution  
Threshold And Quantification Measurement Mass Spectrometry  
Serial No.: 10/004,627 Filing Date: December 4, 2001  
Examiner: Hughes Group Art Unit: 2881  
Docket No.: M-15307 US

Irvine, California  
July 8, 2005

Mail Stop  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.56**

Sir:

It is requested that the information identified in this statement be considered by the Examiner and made of record in the above-identified application. This statement is not intended to represent that a search has been made or that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

*Enclosed with this statement are the following:*

- X Form PTO-1449 (*Substitute*). The Examiner is requested to initial the form and return it to the undersigned in accordance with M.P.E.P. §609.
- X A copy of each cited document as required by 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (*except where otherwise indicated for a specific citation*).

Complete copies are not submitted of U.S. applications per 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(iii), and copies are not submitted of documents already cited or submitted in a parent application from which benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 is claimed per 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d). If any of the cited/submitted documents is in a foreign language, a concise explanation of relevancy is provided pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3). For foreign language documents cited in a search report by a foreign patent office, the requirement

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for a concise explanation of relevance is satisfied by the submission herewith of an English language version of the search report. 57 F.R. 2021 (1/17/92). If a written English-language translation of a non-English language document, or portion thereof, is within the possession, custody or control of, or is readily available to any individual designated in §1.56(c), a copy of the translation accompanies this statement. 37 C.F.R. §1.98(c).

*This statement should be considered because:*

☐ This statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (b) because:

- (1) It is being filed within 3 months of the application filing date;  
-- OR --
- (2) It is being filed within 3 months of entry of a national stage;  
-- OR --
- (3) It is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office action *on the merits*,  
-- OR --
- (4) It is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office action *after the filing of an RCE*

whichever occurs last.

**X** Although it may not qualify under subsection (b), this statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (c) because:

- (1) It is being filed before the mailing date of a FINAL Office Action and before a Notice of Allowance or another action closing prosecution (whichever occurs first)

-- AND (check at least one of the following) --

- X** (1) It is accompanied by the \$180 fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p)  
-- OR --
- ☐ (2) It is accompanied by a CERTIFICATION as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)

☐ Although it may not qualify under subsection (b) or (c), this statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (d) because:

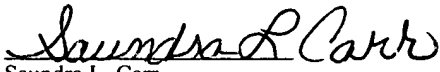
- (1) It is accompanied by a CERTIFICATION as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e);

-- AND --


- (2) It is accompanied by a STATEMENT TO ACCEPT INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d);  
-- AND --
- (3) It is accompanied by the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p);  
-- AND --
- (4) The Issue Fee has not been paid prior to the submission.

**X Fee Authorization.** The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the filing fee or any additional fees or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. **50-2257**. A duplicate copy of this authorization is enclosed.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Sandra L. Carr  
Dated: July 8, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jonathan W. Hallman  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 42,622

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

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# INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

*(Use as many sheets as necessary)*

Sheet	1	of
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Application Number	10/004,627
Filing Date	December 4, 2001
First Named Inventor	Kingston et al.
Art Unit	2881
Examiner Name	Hughes
Attorney Docket Number	M-15307 US

## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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Examiner Name	J.P. Hughes
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Attorney Docket Number	M-15307 US
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Street

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of

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## NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

**Examiner  
Signature**

Date  
Considered

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1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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